

Remarks

Applicant will address the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action using the paragraph numbers from the Office Action.

Drawing Objection Raised in Paragraph 6:

To resolve this rejection, claim 9 has been canceled and the divider wall referenced in claims 30 and 34 has been removed from those claims. This is believed to address the drawing objection to these claims.

Drawing Objections in Numbered Paragraph 7:

Replacement sheet 1 has been submitted deleting reference numerals 34 and 86 and their respective lead lines. A highlighted version of the drawings is also attached to show the deletion of reference numerals 34 and 86 and their lead lines from Figure 1. Inasmuch as the Figures 2 and 3 are believed to clearly show the damper and sensor relative to reference characters 32, 34, 84 and 86, the deletion of these reference characters from Figure 1 is believed to resolve the drawing objection raised in numbered paragraph 7.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 as Raised in Numbered Paragraph 11:

Applicant has amended claim 24 as suggested by the Examiner to replace the two separate means plus function limitations with a single means plus function limitation. This is believed to overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 112.

Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 10 Under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) in Numbered Paragraph 13:

Claims 1-4 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) in view of Taylor. Although applicant disagrees with the Examiner's analysis, applicant has amended claim 1 to define the relationship of the housing to the bathroom, the building interior, and

the area of safe exhaust and thereby specifying that the bathroom exhaust inlet is operably connected to the bathroom, the exhaust outlet is operable connected to the area of safe exhaust, the return air inlet and the supply air outlet are operably connected to the building interior. It is submitted that Taylor fails to disclose or suggest this arrangement and that claims 1-4 and 10 are patentably distinct in view of Taylor.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) in Numbered Paragraph 14:

Claims 1-3, 11, 30 and 34 stand alternately rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) in view of McFadden. It is submitted that the system as described in amended claim 1 is not disclosed by McFadden and that therefore claim 1 and its dependent claims are novel in view of McFadden. Regarding claims 30 and 34, amendments similar to those made in claim 1 have been amended and it is submitted that neither McFadden nor the other prior art of record discloses the geometry described in these amended claims.

Rejection of Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) in Numbered Paragraph 15:

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) in view of Shibata. Like claim 1, claim 24 has been amended to describe the geometry of the system including the bathroom, the building interior, the area of safe exhaust and the area of outdoor air. It is submitted that Shibata does not disclose this claimed geometry and that claim 24 is novel and patentable in view of Shibata and the other references of record.

Alternate Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) in Numbered Paragraph 16:

Claims 1-10 and 30-37 are alternately rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) in view of Besik. This rejection is submitted to be not relevant in view of the claim amendments to describe the system

including the bathroom, building interior, area of safe exhaust and an area of outdoor air as described in these claims. Consequently, these claims are submitted to be novel and patentable in view of the prior art of record.

The foregoing remarks and amendments are believed to fully address each issue raised in the Office Action. Should applicant have failed to fully address an issue, the Examiner is requested to contact applicant's representative at the number below.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William O'Driscoll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William O'Driscoll
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In the Drawings:

Please submit the amended Drawing Figure 1, Sheet 1, attached hereto in place of the Drawing Figure 1, Sheet 1, currently on file.

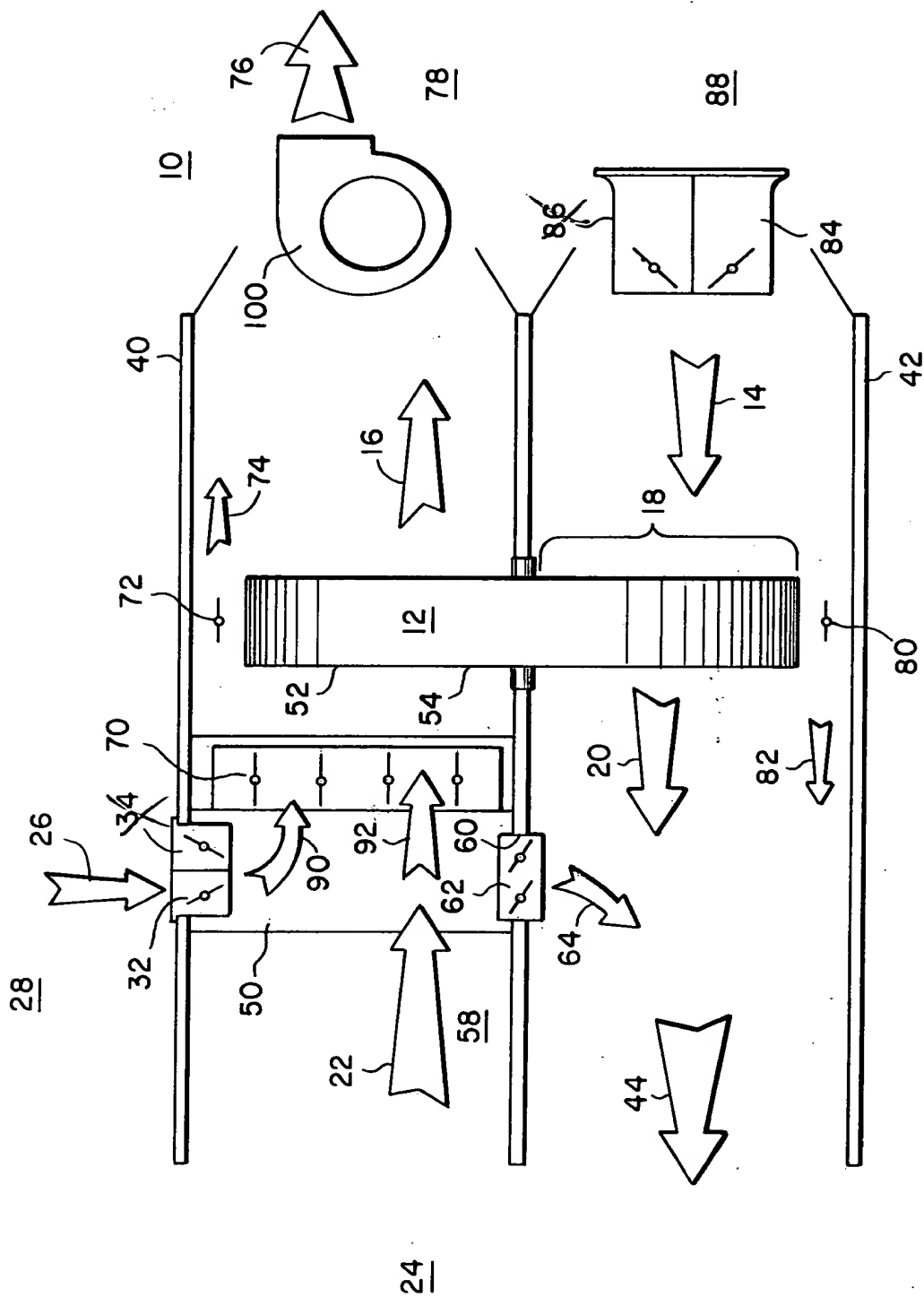


FIG. 1